

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for processing at least two types of payloads received at varying intervals in a communications network using a single processing path is provided. The two types of payloads may include virtually and contiguously concatenated payloads according to SONET/SHD architecture. The method comprises assigning pseudo indices to payloads having no indices associated therewith and providing both sets of payloads, including indices and pseudo indices, to the single processing path.